



Brownfield Site Assessment Grant

PUB-RR-652

June, 2005

The Brownfield Site Assessment Grant (SAG) is a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) program that helps local governments conduct initial activities and investigations at environmentally contaminated property. The proposed state budget for 2005-07 is the fourth to contain funding for the SAG program.

Eligible Applicants and Sites

Any local government (city, village, town, county, redevelopment authority, community development authority, tribe or housing authority) is eligible to complete an application for a grant.

In each application round, a local government may submit only one application for a large grant and one application for a small grant for a single property. However, a local government may request funds for more than one property in each round, or may submit a grant application covering multiple, contiguous properties.

Any application submitted must be for an eligible site or facility, which is defined as "one or more contiguous industrial or commercial facilities or sites with common or multiple ownership that are abandoned, idle, or underused, the expansion or redevelopment of which is adversely affected by actual or perceived environmental contamination." (s. 292.75(1)(a), Wis. Stats.)

The grant must be used for one or more properties that have suspected or known environmental contamination, and the applicant cannot be the party who caused the contamination. A local government does not have to own the property in order to qualify for this grant, but must have access to the site within 60 days of a grant award to carry out the grant activities.

Eligible Costs

Local governments have 12 months to conduct grant activities after the grant contract is signed. The following activities are eligible for grant funding at an eligible site or facility:

- Phase I and II environmental assessments;
- site investigation;
- demolition of any structures or buildings;
- asbestos abatement, if it's a necessary part of demolition activity; and
- removal and proper disposal or treatment of abandoned containers, underground hazardous substance storage tank systems, or underground petroleum storage tanks.

Funding

According to the proposed state budget, there is \$1.7 million available for this round, the 2005-2006 fiscal year. A total of \$1.02 million is allocated to fund small grants (\$2,000-\$30,000). The remaining \$680,000 is available for large grants (\$30,001 to \$100,000).



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<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr>



Brownfields SAG Success!

- 134 Wisconsin communities received grants totaling \$8.26 million since 1999.
- Funding has helped communities investigate and clean up 850 acres.
- Activities include more than 468 site assessments and investigations, removal of 282 storage tanks and the demolition of 324 structures and buildings.

The applicant must contribute a match of at least 20 percent of the grant request. The match can be provided in the form of cash, in-kind services, or a combination of both.

The Application

Applications were made available in July, 2005. The deadline for both small grant and large grant applications for the 2005-06 fiscal year will be October 20, 2005.

You may obtain an application from the DNR's Remediation and Redevelopment Program web site at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/rbrownfields/sag.htm> or by contacting Michael Prager at (608) 261-4927, or michael.prager@dnr.state.wi.us.

If there are more requests than available money, the applications will be scored and

those with the highest number of points will be awarded grants. Detailed scoring information is available on the application form (Form 4400-217), which is available at the above web address.

Applicants will need to provide information on the proposed site or facility, including its status as a brownfield, what the known or suspected contamination is, and sufficient information to document that the responsible party is unknown, unable to be located or is unable to pay. The applicant must obtain necessary legal access no later than 60 days after the DNR announces grant awards.

Get Ready, Get Set – Apply!

A local government can prepare for the SAG application by following the checklist below:

- ☐ locate eligible sites or facilities;
- ☐ determine what activities need to be performed;
- ☐ obtain cost estimates for activities from a qualified professional;
- ☐ get access and/or ownership;
- ☐ collect information on the history of the site, occupants and cause of contamination;
- ☐ budget for the match;
- ☐ create and approve a municipal resolution in support of the project; and
- ☐ prepare an application, and submit by the deadline.



This document contains information about certain state statutes and administrative rules but does not necessarily include all of the details found in the statutes and rules. Readers should consult the actual language of the statutes and rules to answer specific questions.

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This publication is available in alternative format upon request. Please call 608-267-3543 for more information.